

Selfridge Field,  
Buildings #1012, 1015, 1016, 1017,  
(Bachelor Quarters, 32 Man Capacity) (Old Barracks)  
Doolittle Drive south of B Street  
~~Harrison Township~~, Mt. Clemens Vicinity  
Macomb County  
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-LL

HAER  
MICH  
50-MTCLE.V  
ILL-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GREAT LAKES SYSTEMS OFFICE  
1709 JACKSON STREET  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER  
MICH  
50-MTCLE.V,  
ILL-

SELFRIDGE FIELD HAER No. MI-116-LL  
BUILDINGS #1012, #1015, #1016, #1017  
BACHELORS QUARTERS, 32 MAN CAPACITY  
(Old Barracks)

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: South of North Perimeter Road, east of North-South Ramp  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,  
Macomb County, Michigan

Quad/UTM: U.S.G.S. New Haven Quadrangle,  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
17.349950.4720950 (#1012)  
17.349950.4721020 (#1015)  
17.349950.4721050 (#1016)  
17.350000.4721020 (#1017)

Date of Construction: 1951 (modified, 1979-1980)

Present Owner: Air National Guard  
3500 Fetchet Avenue  
Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland 20762

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Buildings #1012, 1015, 1016 and 1017 are the four surviving barracks of five originally constructed within the NORAD district, and the utilitarian design of the surviving buildings have undergone minor alteration since construction. These buildings housed unmarried personnel that operated and maintained the NORAD facilities. The NORAD district occupies distinct complex at Selfridge that was self contained and isolated from the rest of the base for functional and security reasons. These buildings represent the daily lives of personnel serving during the height of the Cold War. The significance of these buildings is best defined as contributing structures to the entire NORAD installation, a regional command and control center for NORAD, responsible for protection of the Great Lakes region.

Historian: William E. Rutter, Midwest Environmental Consultants,  
May, 1996

## II. HISTORY

Buildings #1012, #1015, #1016, #1017 are "Bachelor Quarters (32 Man Capacity) Masonry Construction," erected in 1951 from plans provided by the noted architectural firm of Holabird & Root & Burgee of Chicago for the Corps of Engineers, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Military Construction-Engineers.<sup>1</sup> All served as general barracks for the NORAD compound although Building #1017 was designated as AACS Barracks and other buildings later served as residential, storage and support facilities, such as #1015 which was designated a Custodial Services Building.<sup>2</sup> In 1979-1980 the buildings were renovated under direction of the Selfridge Engineer by crews from Preparedness Influencing Mission Effectiveness (PRIME BEEF) who replaced windows and upgraded the interior with paneling, etc.<sup>3</sup>

## III. DESCRIPTION

Buildings #1012, 1015, 1016 and 1017 are rectangular plan, 29'4" wide by

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<sup>1</sup>Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Base Civil Engineers Office

<sup>2</sup>Base Master Plans, 1958 and 1974, on file Selfridge Base Museum

<sup>3</sup>Document on file, Selfridge Base Museum, Document files

97'4" deep, two-story, concrete block structures. All rest on concrete foundations punctuated by steel grated crawl space vents and all are shielded by a shallow-pitched, hipped gable roof above a wood frieze. The principal elevation consists of a single centrally positioned wood paneled pedestrian entry door shielded by a flat roofed entry stoop supported by pairs of steel pipe posts joined by a series of horizontal pipes (presumably to serve as emergency exits from the porch roof at the second story). Directly above the door is a window void with precast concrete sill and lintel. In Building #1012 and #1017 the original steel farmed casement window survive, with three horizontal lights. In Building #1015 the voids are filled with vertical two lighted track vinyl windows and in #1016 these voids are sealed by plywood sheets. The side elevations are 12 bays deep, as defined by eleven window voids on the first story and twelve directly above on the second. The rear elevation consists of three bays defined on both the first and second stories by central pedestrian doors flanked by window voids. The pedestrian doors in Building #1016 are wooden and sheathed in plywood sheets, while the other buildings display plain steel replacement doors. The entry porch is supported by pipe frames identical to those of the facade.

The interior plan is nearly identical for both floors. Each is arranged on a

central hall plan providing access to nine bedrooms and a central lounge. The first story also included a laundry room, toilet and mechanical room opposite the lounge, while the second story placed a the toilet and a storage are opposite the lounge. The rooms featured closets and dressers that were integrated into the interior wall planes to achieve maximum efficiency of space.

#### IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

##### A. BOOKS

Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

\_\_\_\_\_, Guide and Directory, Selfridge Air Force Base, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan, 1977.

##### B. PLANS

Copy of construction drawing, dated October 30, 1951, Holabird & Root & Burgee, Architects-Engineers, Chicago, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. First and Second Floor Plans, Sheet 1 of 9, Drawing No. 25-22-04.

Copy of construction drawing, dated October 30, 1951, Holabird & Root & Burgee, Architects-Engineers, Chicago, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Elevations, Sections and Details, Sheet 3 of 9, Drawing No. 25-22-04.

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Copy of construction drawing, dated October 30, 1951, Holabird & Root & Burgee, Architects-Engineers, Chicago, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Architectural Details, Sheet 4 of 9, Drawing No. 25-22-04.

C. INTERVIEWS

Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.